

HAPPY NEW YEAR

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JANUARY 2016

RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

Beginning this month, Highland and Munster residents have enhanced recreational opportunities that mean an individual could begin their day with a workout at Highland's Lincoln Community Center and spend the afternoon with their dog at Munster's Centennial Park while paying resident rates at both facilities.

A unique partnership forged between Munster and Highland park departments has eliminated the border between the two communities when it comes to big-ticket recreational venues, including the Munster dog park, community pool and Highland's fitness center.

Recreation Director Dave Byers said the partnership came together as a way to achieve cost-savings for residents on in-town recreation.

Both park boards agreed in November to trial the arrangement during a year-long pilot program before approving a long-term partnership.

"I think it's great to see two neighboring communities working together," Byers said.

The cross-promotion is expected to increase the usage at all three facilities.

"We have about 1,300 members during the winter months, about 100 of which live in Munster. We hope to expand our membership by opening our doors to Munster." 🐾

CENTENNIAL DOG PARK

This 3-acre fenced-in park is for members only, offering dog-sized drinking fountains, a dog playground and waste bags. Proof of immunization — three-dog limit — is required for all dogs before a pass is issued. This is an annual membership beginning on date of purchase. To be considered a resident, you must possess a current driver's license showing Highland or Munster residency.

FIRST DOG	\$40
SECOND DOG	\$25
THIRD DOG	\$25

MUNSTER COMMUNITY POOL

Passes are available at Munster Town Hall or Munster Community Pool. To be considered a resident, you must possess a current driver's license showing Highland or Munster residency.

	EARLY DISCOUNT	AFTER MAY 27
INDIVIDUAL	\$80	\$95
2-FAMILY	\$145	\$165
3-FAMILY	\$195	\$225
4-FAMILY	\$235	\$265
EACH ADDITIONAL	\$30	\$35
CHILDCARE	\$60	\$75
AGES 2 & UNDER	FREE	FREE

Learn more at WWW.HIGHLANDPARKS.ORG.

RECYCLABLES COLLECTION

The 2016 recyclables collection schedule inside this month's water bill contains dates for collection in your neighborhood.



BIG SELL COMPETITION

If you have the next big invention, Purdue University Calumet is looking for you to take part in the 2016 Big Sell entrepreneurial competition April 16 at the Radisson Star Plaza in Merrillville. Hosted by Purdue Calumet's Center for Entrepreneurship Success, competitors have two minutes to pitch their idea. Top winners share more than \$100,000 in cash and prizes. Online submissions only at www.thebigsell.org.

... TOWN TICKER ...

The new year has brought a new brew to town. [Sip Coffee House](#), which got its start in Crown Point, is adding a second location in Highland. It will open in mid-January between Primitive Peddler and Miles Books on Jewett Street. ... It's time to renew your annual [Highland business license](#). Applications are available at town hall or online at www.highland.in.gov!

HIGHLAND SANITARY BOARD PETITIONS FOR ARBITRATION

Five months after Highland won a court challenge regarding a long-standing sanitary agreement with Hammond, the two communities appear headed to arbitration to resolve lingering issues involving sewage projects in Highland.

The issue: Hammond's refusal to sign off on permits necessary to begin work on an above-ground storage facility to hold untreated waste water when flows exceed 7.5 million gallons per day.

The \$20 million project, which also includes a pump station upgrade and construction of an interceptor sewer, was ordered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"We need to proceed on these projects," Councilman Mark Herak said. "We won, but we still have a great deal of work to do. We are looking at a two-year construction timetable mandated by the EPA and we need to get moving." 🐾

ABOUT THE CASE

More than two years after the Hammond Sanitary District sought to terminate its sanitary treatment contracts with Highland, Griffith and Whiting, the Indiana Supreme Court ruled Hammond acted improperly when it canceled the long-term contracts in 2013. That case set the stage for the current arbitration, which is just beginning.

FIDO NEEDS A NEW TAG ...

By Feb. 29, all dogs and cats that call Highland home need a new license.

The cost per animal is \$5 until March 1, when the cost triples to \$15. The increase doesn't apply to dogs and cats acquired after Feb. 29.

Registering is a one-step process that begins and ends at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 3333 Ridge Road. Forms require contact information as well as pet name, breed, sex, color, spay/neuter and vet. The owner will then be given a registration tag the pet is required to wear. Each year the town reunites several pets and their owners through the license program.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about recent crime trends at this month's neighborhood watch meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **JAN. 13**

WHERE: Highland Library

INFO: Please call Officer Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN - vice president
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK - president
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126



WARD 3

DAN VASSAR
dvassar@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-1945



WARD 4

STEVEN WAGNER
swagner@highland.in.gov
(219) 718-3199



WARD 5

KONNIE KUIPER
kkuiper@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-7820

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

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ON THE HORIZON IN 2016

The members of the 27th Town Council have their sights firmly set on propelling Highland forward with a series of initiatives to strengthen vital services and infrastructure, create unique partnerships that save money and boost quality of life while setting their sights on economic development opportunities that broaden the tax base and enhance the curb appeal of the community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The town's northern gateway is getting a fresh look as leaders look to capitalize on an economic renaissance in neighboring Hammond. "We loaned Hammond money to take down the eyesore that was the Highlands Apartments," Councilman Bernie Zemen said. "Now, they have a hotel, restaurants, professional services and the possibility of new retail. We are looking at the potential for companion economic development in Highland."

BEAUTIFICATION

Highland made history when it paved a ribbon of asphalt to create a linear hiking/biking trail along an abandoned rail line more than 30 years ago. Councilman Dan Vassar wants to see the town make history again — planting additional trees, adding landscaping, gardens, even decorative lighting. "The decorative lighting would not only add to the beautification of our trails, it would add to the safety and security of our community" he said.

BUILDING TOWN HALL

The same problems that plagued the police department for decades — rusty water lines, inefficient heat and air conditioning, an ill-configured building and leaky roof — are also impacting other town offices located at 3333 Ridge Road. The Town Council will begin discussion this year on next steps for the municipal building, which will entail either an extensive overhaul or construction of a new building at its current location or in the downtown.

WEATHER ACTIVATION

An early weather warning system triggered by lightning and thunderstorms is on Councilman Dan Vassar's radar. He would like the council, parks and schools study the issue to see if it makes sense for Highland. "This would add safety for anyone participating in youth sports, extracurricular activities at school, such as the flag corps, band and track as well as children and their parents who are utilizing the parks."

PARTNERSHIPS

The Town Council is looking to meet with the town's neighbors to the east to discuss the option of merging Highland and Griffith public works departments in one location in Griffith. The move would achieve savings through cost-sharing management and heavy equipment costs and free up a large tract of precious, high-visibility land for redevelopment along north Kennedy Avenue.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The second phase of a major water project along Kennedy Avenue is scheduled to begin this spring and conclude in early summer. At the same time, the Sanitary Board is looking for a resolution on long-standing issues with Hammond regarding sewage treatment rates that will pave the way for construction of an above-ground sanitary storage tank on the north side of town.

NO PARKING ON STREETS: 1" SNOW OR MORE

The Council passed a flurry of amendments banning all on-street parking whenever there is more than one inch of new-fallen snow.

Councilman Bernie Zemen said the rules were necessary to allow snow plows to do their jobs in the first critical hours after a snowfall.

"We have a small group of people who have insisted on parking on the street during a snowstorm," Zemen said. "Those individuals make it more difficult for snow-removal crews to do their jobs and impossible for first-responders to get to the scene during emergencies." ❄️



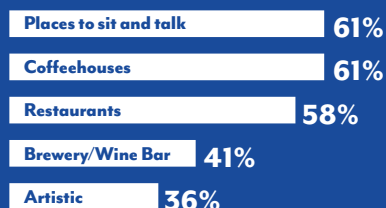
SNOW REMOVAL MANNERS

PLEASE REMEMBER: The town noise ordinance is in effect year round. The ordinance bans the use of snowblowers and snowplows in residential neighborhoods between midnight and 6 a.m. If you contract for snow removal, please ask the company to schedule your service between 6 a.m. and midnight to avoid disturbing your neighbors.

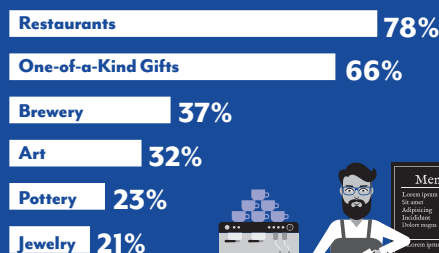
Arts & Cultural District Survey RESULTS ARE IN!

More than 1,000 Highland households took the opportunity to tell town leaders what they want to see in and around downtown – and the kinds of businesses they would like to support. Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro was heartened by the number of responses. “This shows us just how much interest there is in an Arts and Cultural District.” **Here are the highlights:**

Entertainment you would like to see in downtown Highland ...



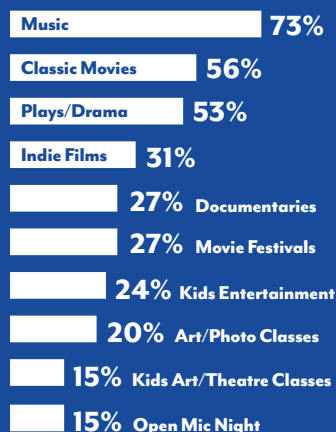
Shops you would frequent in the Arts & Cultural District ...



57%

spend \$20 to \$50 per person on a typical evening out on the town!

Activities you would attend at the Town Theatre ...



94%

of the 1,056 respondents live in Highland, 68% are female and 69% are 30 to 71 years old.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Survey responses will help chart a course for continued redevelopment along Highway and Kennedy avenues. For complete survey results, please visit the town's website at www.highland.in.gov.



BABE RUTH REGISTRATION

It's time to register for the Highland Babe Ruth and Travel League for the following divisions: Babe Ruth and Senior League.

BABE RUTH: Ages 13 to 15

SENIOR BABE RUTH: Ages 16 to 19

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **JAN. 30** and **FEB. 13 and 27.**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

NOTE: Players **MUST** turn 13 by April 30, 2015 or 19 after December 31, 2014 and reside in Highland. Birth certificate and proof of residency are required at registration.

INFO: Call Babe Ruth League President Dan Vassar at (219) 924-1945 or e-mail highlandbaberuth@yahoo.com.



LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Boys and girls can register now for the following Little League divisions: T-Ball, Rookie, Minor B, Minor A, Majors.

LEAGUE AGES: 4 to 12

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **JAN. 23, FEB. 6 and 20, MARCH 5**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

NOTE: Players **MUST** turn 4 by August 31, 2016 and reside or go to school in Highland. Birth certificate and proof of residency are required at registration.

REGISTRATION: Forms available online at www.highlandll.com.

INFO: Call HLL President Bob Johnsen at (219) 718-1236 or email info@highlandll.com.



SOCCER CLUB REGISTRATION

Spring registration starts in January each year and must be closed by early February in order for teams to be created and declared to the Northwest Indiana Soccer League.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **JAN. 9, 16, 23**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

TRAVEL TEAMS: All players must provide a wallet-sized picture. New players must show proof of age and purchase a uniform – jersey, shorts, socks – from the club.

IN-HOUSE TEAMS: The in-house league consists of players ages 4 through 8. It does not promote competition and no statistics or game scores are kept. All players receive trophies for their effort and participation.

FEES: \$75 in person or online. \$100 late registration after **JAN. 23**

INFO: Visit www.highlandsoccer.org.

JUNIOR PAINT NIGHT

Trained Instructor Heather Leddy will lead youth - ages 7 through 12 - step-by-step as they paint their own 12" x 12" canvases. It's a fun, stress-free class. No experience is required.

WHEN: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, **JAN. 13** or **FEB. 3**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$15 residents / \$18 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 348025

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

CANVAS PAINT NIGHT

Trained Instructor Heather Leddy will show you step-by-step how to paint your own 16" x 20" canvas. It's a fun, stress-free class. No experience is required. Ages 13 and older.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, **JAN. 14** (snowman);

Wednesday, **JAN. 27** (Blackhawks logo);

Wednesday, **FEB. 17** (flowers).

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$25 residents / \$30 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 349003

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

YOUTH OPEN DODGEBALL

This after-school program features open play dodgeball with foam balls. An instructor will be on hand to explain the rules of the game, form teams, and help officiate matches.

WHEN: 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays, **JAN. 13** through

FEB. 10 and **FEB. 17** through **MARCH 16**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$25 residents / \$30 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 114001

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

BIDDY BOWLING

Biddy Bowling is a non-instructional five-week program for boys and girls ages 4 to 11. Join us for a game of bumper bowling each week!

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays,

JAN. 23 through **FEB. 20**

WHERE: Plaza Lanes, 8101 Kennedy Ave.

FEE: \$36 residents / \$39 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 150001

REGISTRATION: Deadline is **JAN. 22** at Lincoln Community Center

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

Dads and their daughters - ages 5 and older - are invited to enjoy dancing, light refreshments and DJ entertainment at the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance. Photographers provide one free photo. Extras available for purchase. Highland residents/students only.

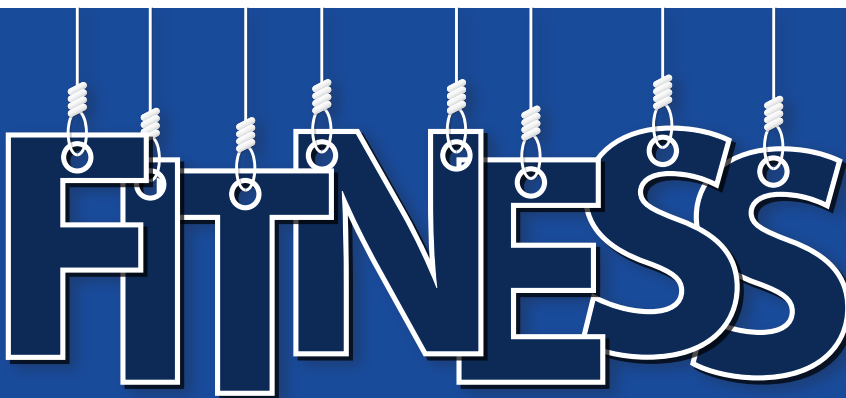
WHEN: 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, **FEB. 5**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse

FEE THROUGH JAN. 31: \$20 couple / \$10 additional daughter

FEE FEB. 1-4: \$25 couple / \$12.50 additional daughter. No tickets will be sold the day of the dance, which holds a maximum of 400 people.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.



Commit to a healthier you in 2016. Join the Lincoln Community Center Fitness Center and pay no initiation fee. From Zumba to aerobics, we have something for everyone. This special offer expires January 19.

FITNESS 101

Work on strength, cardio, balance and flexibility at a manageable pace. All equipment is provided - you don't need to bring anything. Join a group of like-minded people who want to get stronger and improve their health together.

AGES: 14 and older

WHEN: 8 to 8:55 p.m. Tuesdays and

Thursdays, **JAN. 5-28** or **FEB. 2-25**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Aerobics Room

FEE: \$39 residents / \$43 nonresidents

DROP-IN: \$9 residents / \$10 nonresidents

ACTIVITY CODE: 300016

TEAM TOTAL FITNESS

Work out with a certified personal trainer to lead you through this progressive program that focuses on body composition, overall health and conditioning. Great group training for all fitness levels, including beginners.

AGES: 14 and older

WHEN: 7 to 7:55 p.m. Tuesdays,

Wednesdays; 9 to 9:55 a.m. Saturdays

WHERE: Lincoln Center Aerobics Room

SESSION 1: January 5-30

SESSION 2: February 2-27

SESSION 3: March 1-26

SESSION 4: April 5-30

3X/WEEK: \$56 residents / \$62 nonresidents

2X/WEEK: \$39 residents / \$43 nonresidents

1X/WEEK: \$22 residents / \$24 nonresidents

DROP-IN: \$9 residents / \$10 nonresidents

ACTIVITY CODE: 300034

ORIENTATION

Learn the proper ways to use LCC Fitness Center equipment and obtain guidelines for a safe workout.

WHEN: 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, **JAN. 23**

WHERE: LCC Fitness Center.

Must be a Fitness Center

member. Scan ID upon arrival.

FEE: Free.

NOTE: Nonmembers are welcome to drop in any time for a tour!

REFER A FRIEND

Are you a Fitness Center member who knows a friend or family member who would like to try our facility?

Log on to www.highlandparks.org/fitnesscenter and click on "Refer A Friend." Fill out the short form and we will be notified of your request.

Once we confirm your membership, we will send your friend or family member a complimentary 24-hour pass to try out our state-of-the-art Fitness Center! You may refer as many folks as you like, but each person may only receive one trial pass.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on these and other LCC Fitness Center opportunities, visit highlandparks.org or call the Highland Parks & Recreation office at (219) 838-0114.